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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

REPORT

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1. Radivoje Davidovic-Kepa is a member of the Central Committee of the Federation of Communists of Serbia, a representative from the Vojvodina in Parliament where he is a member of two committees, and professor of political economy at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Belgrade. Well known as a public worker, he is always called for consultations when theoretical and practical economic problems are involved.¹ In the publishing field, he is a member of the editorial board of Ekonomist and some smaller journals. Formerly, he was director of the following institutions: The Higher Party School (located in Dedinje in the former Students' Home of King Alexander), the Institute for Social Sciences (the highest institution for theoretical education of Marxist cadres, now abolished) and the Institute for International Politics and Economics at the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs.
2. Although he is only 38 years old, Davidovic is considered a member of the older Party cadres. He spent ten years in prison in pre-war Yugoslavia, and during numerous arrests and interrogations he never disclosed anything injurious to the Party. In prison, where he was with Mosa Pijade and Rodoljub Colakovic, he was noted for his intelligence. He studied Marx's Capital, learned German, and instructed others in these fields. As an employee in the prison library, he knew what Communist prisoners were reading; he turned this information over to the Party leaders as an indication of which members were losing their morale and which were improving their theoretical knowledge.
3. Davidovic might be called the prototype of the old guard Communist. His specific personal characteristic is his unlimited devotion to the Party, which entails a blind obedience to any orders received from above. This means

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absolute support of any Party measure whether he agrees with it or not. The word "partijnost" (Party feeling, Party-belonging), the best characteristic of a Party member, represents a degree of this type of obedience. Davidovic is not dominated by fear or a desire for promotion in the hierarchy, as is true of the majority of Party members, but rather a sort of caste solidarity. As one who joined the Party as a young man during a period of severe persecution by the former regime, his desire for a Party career would not have been sufficient to keep him going through all the dangers he faced. This was a period when Party members were encouraged by the Party-fostered illusion of a future era of justice, social equality, general well-being and freedom. The type of Communist that Davidovic represents prefers not to accept the present reality, but rather to try to prove on a statistical basis, or by relying on memories, that the current standard of living is higher than it was in pre-war Yugoslavia. Realization of the failure of the regime would mean the negation of years of struggle and of sacrifice and the feeling that he belonged to a caste which in reality was being bribed by the regime. Because of this ostrich-like refusal to open his eyes, Davidovic is not apt to engage in the type of political activity which caused the liquidation of Milovan Djilas.

4. Within the framework of the Party line, Davidovic tries to do his own thinking. Personally, he is modest except when his theoretical knowledge, about which he is very sensitive, is questioned, as it is today by various persons. He is not a man of large horizons or broad views, and therefore has not been able to advance beyond membership in the Executive Council of the Central Committee for Serbia. He is careful not to do that "which one shouldn't do" and is not an innovator. He spent his two years as director of the Institute for International Politics on the purely routine aspects of the job (records, documents, library) and left the supervision of the study groups, the real work he should have been doing, to others. He also set up various administrative measures for checking the promptness, attendance and diligence of the employees.
5. Davidovic is an able person and a hard worker, but he is unable to concentrate on one thing, and tries to work on several jobs at the same time, with unsuccessful results. He is surrounded by young men who consider him their teacher, and he promotes them without much attention to their qualifications. Although he tries to conceal it, he is envious of the knowledge of his university colleagues, and is in personal conflict with Mirko Perovic and Radivoje Uvalic. Because of his inherent pettiness he is often in difficulties; this characteristic contributed to his removal as Director of the Institute for Social Sciences and of the Institute for International Politics. At the latter institution he attempted to dismiss illegally fifteen persons whom he disliked.
6. His long permanence in prison has affected Davidovic's behavior in several ways. In addition to his pettiness, and his impatience with subordinates, he does not know how to behave towards women, and treats them either too officially or rudely, or is absurdly kind to an exaggerated degree. He shows special kindness and politeness towards old Partisan female "Comrades", especially if they are attractive.
when travelling officially by train carries his own food with him.

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9. In the field of theoretical knowledge, Davidovic has stopped developing after reading three volumes of Marx, and, despite his best efforts, cannot develop further. In the field of practical economics he is completely incapable, and is not taken seriously. When Bogdan Crnobrnja and Joze Vilfan speak of him as a practical economist, they smile ironically and say "Ah, Keps, he is a good professor." However, his career as a practical politician is not quite finished, since he occasionally is given a chance to go abroad, e.g., as one of three Yugoslav delegates to the meeting of the Interparliamentary Union at Florence. Despite this, it is apparent that he is gradually becoming a museum piece. When he left the Institute not further identified he had his car taken from him, and now has only his villa in Dedinje and a monthly salary of 50,000 - 60,000 dinars.

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Comment: This statement seems to contradict paragraph 9.

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